Georgia Statewide LGBT Community Survey
Rush Center Statewide LGBT Community Survey Results  
Prepared for Georgia Equality and The Health initiative  
by the Shapiro Group

In an effort to better understand the needs of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities throughout Georgia, the Atlanta Lesbian Health Initiative and Georgia Equality partnered with the Phillip Rush Center to conduct the first-ever comprehensive survey of LGBT Georgians.

By collecting information on LGBT Georgian's throughout the state organizations are better able to plan services, programs and engage in advocacy that will help all Georgians who identify as LGBT. Building a broader statewide LGBT community in Georgia is one of the keys to advancing equality and fairness for us all.

Methodology:

• Web survey fielded from July to September, 2011.
• 2,124 members of Georgia’s LGBT community across 94 counties completed the survey.
• Topics covered include relationships, faith, health, issues affecting the LGBT community and the experience of LGBT individuals in Georgia

Summary of Key Findings:

When it comes to LGBT issues the LGBT community in Georgia is most concerned with large social issues, such as expanded civil rights protections, expanded rights/recognition of LGBT families, and ensuring schools are safe for LGBT youth.

• This indicates that the greatest desire is for structural change, which is reinforced by the donation patterns of respondents; among those who give to political organizations or candidates, the most resources are directed toward presidential candidates and national political organizations, not local groups.

• Also, a majority of respondents is in some type of committed relationship, which makes civil rights protections and recognition of LGBT families all the more salient on a daily basis.

LGBT Georgians are interested in having points of connection with other LGBT individuals.

• For each of the tested locations/ events (community centers, houses of worship, bars, concerts/ festivals) a majority of respondents indicates it is important that they have an LGBT focus.
Two-thirds of respondents feel that life is more difficult for LGBT people in Georgia compared to other states, thus points of connection offer a sense of validation and support. This could also encourage people to work on a more local level to improve their situation.

There is interest in LGBT centers and services they can provide.

- Nearly all respondents agree it is more important for a community center to have an LGBT focus when they are deciding whether or not to go there.
- Only 10% of respondents say they are not interested in attending an LGBT community center.
- However, respondents say they are not willing to drive very far to get to one indicating that the local community aspect of a community center is quite important.
- A majority of respondents is interested in support services, legal advice, and meeting or socializing space.

Key Subgroup Differences

African Americans:

- For broader issues, more interested in workforce development, housing and shelter, disaster preparedness and relief, children and youth, community improvement and capacity building, and religion and spiritual development.
- Less likely to donate money

Outside metro Atlanta:

- More likely to find life much more difficult for LGBT people in Georgia
- More likely to experience homophobia/ harassment

Younger:

- More likely to hear about the Georgia LGBT community from schools, social networks, and Project Q
- For broader issues, more interested in arts, culture, and humanities; education; and children and youth
- More likely to experience homophobia/ harassment
Older:

- More likely to hear about the Georgia LGBT community from friends, their house of worship, LGBT organizations, and Georgia Voice
- More likely to donate money

Transgender/ transsexual individuals:

- Consider access to LGBT- welcoming heath care, LGBT-welcoming mental health care, and expanded civil rights protections to be more important issues
- Always more likely to have experiences discrimination among tested situations
- More likely to experience homophobia/ harassment

**Detailed Survey Results**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Relationships and Family</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What is your current relationship status?</td>
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45% In a committed relationship  
34% Single  
10% Married  
8% Dating  
1% Civil Union  
1% Prefer not to say

**If married: In which state were you married? (n=215)**

30% Georgia  
14% Outside the US  
14% All other states  
12% California  
10% Massachusetts  
7% Connecticut  
6% Vermont  
5% Washington, DC  
3% Florida  
2% Nevada

**If married in a civil union: Which state did your civil union take place? (n=29)**

34% Georgia  
17% Vermont  
7% Florida  
7% Illinois  
7% Massachusetts  
7% New York  
7% Outside the United States  
3% California  
3% Connecticut  
3% Nevada  
3% South Carolina
If married, in a civil union, or in a committed relationship: How long have you been in your current relationship status? (n=1,225)

34% 10+ years
34% 1-5 years
18% 5-10 years
  7% less than 6 months
  7% between 6 months and 1 year

Are you or have you ever been married? (All that apply)

67% No
19% Previously in heterosexual marriage
  7% Previously in a same sex marriage
  7% Currently in a same sex marriage
  2% Currently in a heterosexual marriage

Do you have a will or other legal document designating beneficiaries?

51% Yes
49% No

Most likely to have a will or legal document summary by demographic group

- In a committed relationship
- Parent/ guardian of child
- White
- Higher Education
- Higher income

Are you, or have you ever been, the parent or legal guardian of a child?

78% No
22% Yes

If a parent: Have you ever adopted a child via second parent adoption? (n=455)

91% No
9% Yes

If a parent: Has your child been adopted by another adult via second parent adoption?

75% No
14% Not Applicable
11% Yes
If a parent: How many children are currently in your household?

51% None
27% One
16% Two
 5% Three
 2% Four Or More

If you are not/ have never been a parent: Do you intend to have children in the future? (n=1,663)

55% No
23% Yes
22% Unsure

Are you the custodian/care giver of an adult or senior?

92% No
 8% Yes

If a caregiver of an adult: Are you the custodian/ care giver for your partner? (n=163)

74% No
 14% Yes
 12% Not Applicable

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faith and Spirituality</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>What Spiritual or Religious Practice Do You Currently Observe:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27% None</td>
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<tr>
<td>20% Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20% Protestant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10% Agnostic</td>
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<tr>
<td>8% Atheist</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>What were you raised in?:</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>53% Protestant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27% None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20% Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18% Catholic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10% Agnostic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8% Atheist</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
About how often have you attended religious services of any kind in the past 12 months?

- 34% Never
- 23% A Few Times a Year
- 13% Once a Week or More
- 13% Once a Year
- 9% 2 or 3 Times a Month
- 6% About Once a Month
- 2% Prefer Not to Say

If attends: How LGBT-inclusive do you feel your congregation or place of worship is? (n = 1,347)

- 34% Extremely Inclusive
- 17% Very Inclusive
- 10% Somewhat Inclusive
- 8% Not Very Inclusive
- 11% Not at all Inclusive
- 19% Not Applicable

Most likely to have an inclusive place of worship summary by demographic group

- Parent/guardian of a child
- Older
- Higher education
- Lives in metro Atlanta

Your Community

Most useful sources in getting information about the LGBT community in Georgia (% Yes, select up to three)

- 68% Internet/email
- 65% Friends/partner
- 47% Social networking sites
- 38% LGBT Organizations
- 26% Georgia Voice
- 15% Project Q Atlanta
- 7% House of Worship
- 7% Bars
- 7% Other
- 5% Other Newspaper
- 4% School
- 3% LGBT Community Center
- 3% Radio
- 2% Family

More popular for older individuals:
- Friends
- House of Worship
- LGBT Organizations
- Georgia Voice

More popular for younger individuals:
- School
- Social Networking Sites
- Project Q
In your opinion, what are the five most important issues facing the LGBT community in Georgia?

75% Expanded Civil Rights Protections
74% Expanded Rights/ Recognition of LGBT Families
73% Ensuring Schools are Safe for LGBT Youth
31% Access to LGBT-welcoming health care
31% Ensuring Parents have Information on Supporting LGBT Youth
30% Increased support and services for LGBT Elders
29% Increased Acceptance within Faith-Based Communities
27% Greater Emphasis on Electing Openly LGBT Public Officials
24% Increasing Services for People Living with HIV/AIDS
24% Greater LGBT Visibility in Media
20% Safe Spaces to Congregate and Build a Support Network
17% Additional Activities or More Community-Wide Events
14% Access to LGBT-Welcoming Mental Health Services
12% Substance Abuse Treatment and Prevention Targeted at LGBT Community

Five most important issues facing the LGBT community in Georgia summary by demographic group:

More important to transgender/ transsexual individuals:

• Access to LGBT-welcoming healthcare
• Access LGBT-welcoming mental health services
• Expanded Civil Rights Protections

More Important to Men:

• Increasing Services for People Living wit HIV/AIDS

Thinking about your own life, what would be the 3 most important LGBT-focused services that an organization could offer?

72% Support Services
69% Legal Advice
56% Meeting or Socializing Space
48% Information on Healthcare
45% Educational Programming
How important it is that each of the following have an LGBT focus when you are deciding whether or not to go there.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Community Center:</th>
<th>Bars:</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very Important</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat Important</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Important</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>8%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>House of Worship:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Very Important</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Somewhat Important</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Not Important</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Concert/festival:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very Important</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat Important</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Important</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
<td>2%</td>
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What is the farthest you’d be willing to travel to attend an LGBT...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Pride Festival:</th>
<th>Bars:</th>
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<tr>
<td>50 miles or more</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>28%</td>
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<tr>
<td>25-49 miles</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Important</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>8%</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Film Festival:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Very Important</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Somewhat Important</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Not Important</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Concert/festival:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Very Important</td>
<td>13%</td>
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<td>Somewhat Important</td>
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<tr>
<td>Not Important</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
<td>2%</td>
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Compared to other states, is life more difficult or less difficult

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<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>45% Somewhat more Difficult</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>22% Much more Difficult</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14% Not Sure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10% Somewhat less Difficult</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6% No Different than other States</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3% Much less Difficult</td>
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Find it more difficult summary by demographic group

- Those who live in the outside of metro Atlanta
For each of the following issues, please indicate how important it is to you personally. (% Extremely and very important)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Importance</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Civil rights, social action&amp; advocacy</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Services</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children &amp; Youth</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing &amp; shelter</td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aging services</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts, culture&amp; humanities</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capacity building</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workforce development</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disaster preparedness &amp; relief</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religion &amp; spiritual development</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Issues of importance summary by demographic group:

**Young:**
- Arts
- Education
- Children and youth

**Lower education/ income:**
- Workforce development
- Housing
- Disaster preparedness/ relief
- Human services

**African American:**
- Workforce development
- Housing
- Disaster preparedness/ relief
- Children and youth
- Community improvement
- Religion
- Aging

In what ways, if any, have you contributed to nonprofit groups in the past year? (% Yes, select all that apply)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Way</th>
<th>Importance</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Donating money</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteering</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donating goods or services</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raising money</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serving on a committee or board</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None of the above</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**More likely to have contributed:**
- In a committed relationship
- Older
- White
- Lives in metro Atlanta
- Higher education
- Higher income
About how much do you donate to nonprofit organizations each year?

8% $0 (no cash donations)
22% $1-$99
31% $100-$499
14% $500-$999
18% $1,000-$4,999
6% $5,000 or more

If donates: About what portion of your charitable gifts (by total dollars) goes to LGBT causes? (n= 1,918)

11% no donations to LGBT causes
28% 1-10%
14% 11-25%
16% 26-50%
15% 51-75%
17% 76-100%

Do you give political organizations or candidates?

56% No
39% Yes
5% Prefer not to say

If gives to political organizations/ candidates: Have you ever given to...(% Yes, n=934)

71% Presidential candidates
63% National political organizations
46% Other federal candidates/ organizations
45% Georgia state candidates/ organizations
44% Local candidates/ organizations
28% Candidates or ballot referendum campaigns outside of Georgia
15% Referendum campaigns in Georgia

Your Experiences

To your knowledge, do each of the following laws currently exist or not exist in Georgia? (% Exists)

48% LGBT people can designate their partner as the beneficiary of insurance, inheritance, and hospital visitations
30% A second adult can adopt a legal parent’s child
27% LGBT people are included under state hate crimes laws
18% Employment anti-discrimination protections for LGBT people
13% Housing anti-discrimination protections for LGBT people
2% Allowing marriage between two people of the same gender

If applicable: How open (“out”) are you regarding your sexual orientation/ gender identity with the following people?

LGBT friends:
  96% Very open  4% Somewhat open  0% Not open
Counselors:
  83% Very open  10% Somewhat open  7% Not open
Siblings:
  77% Very open  16% Somewhat open  7% Not open
Children:
  75% Very open  17% Somewhat open  8% Not open
Parents:
  72% Very open  19% Somewhat open  9% Not open
Non-LGBT friends:
  68% Very open  28% Somewhat open  4% Not open
Healthcare provider:
  66% Very open  20% Somewhat open  14% Not open
Religious leaders:
  64% Very open  18% Somewhat open  18% Not open
Congregation members:
  62% Very open  21% Somewhat open  17% Not open
Supervisors:
  57% Very open  23% Somewhat open  21% Not open
Coworkers:
  56% Very open  31% Somewhat open  13% Not open
Other family:
  50% Very open  36% Somewhat open  14% Not open
Other students:
  49% Very open  37% Somewhat open  14% Not open
Teachers:
  44% Very open  32% Somewhat open  24% Not open

Have you ever experienced any of the following because of your sexual orientation or gender identity? (% Yes)

71% Been a victim of verbal abuse
46% Harassed or bullied in the middle or high school
25% Discriminated against in employment
16% Discriminated against in healthcare
16% Been a victim of physical violence
10% Been a victim of domestic violence
6% Denied housing
Have you ever experienced any of the following because of your sexual orientation or gender identity

- Transgender/transsexual individuals are more likely to have been discriminated against in a variety of settings, often by a large margin.

If applicable: In the last 12 months, please indicate how often, if at all, you have experienced homophobia, transphobia and/or harassment...

At school:
- 15% Very often
- 31% Yearly
- 54% Never

At work:
- 11% Once a month or more
- 34% Yearly
- 55% Never

On the street:
- 8% Once a month
- 47% Yearly
- 45% Never

At home by family:
- 8% Once a month
- 28% Yearly
- 64% Never

Public establishment:
- 6% Once a month
- 42% Yearly
- 52% Never

Place of Worship:
- 4% Once a month
- 16% Yearly
- 80% Never

By a firefighter, police officer, or other civil servant:
- 2% Once a month
- 15% Yearly
- 83% Never

More likely to experience:

- Transgender/transsexual
- Lower income
- Lives outside of metro Atlanta
- Younger

Your Health & Well-being

What type of health insurance do you have?

- 72% Private insurance
- 16% No insurance
- 8% Medicare
- 3% Prefer not to say
- 1% Veterans’ administration
- 1% Medicaid
If has insurance: Who provides your health insurance? (n=1,719)

- 60% Employer
- 13% Self
- 10% Government
- 7% Parent or legal guardian
- 5% Domestic partner’s employer
- 2% University/ school
- 1% Legal spouse’s employer

If has insurance: Does your health insurance cover hormones or other medical procedures relating to gender transition? (n=1,726)

- 73% Don’t know
- 20% No
- 4% Yes, comprehensive
- 2% Yes, moderate
- 2% Yes, limited

Does your employer provide health insurance to domestic partners?

- 32% No
- 29% Yes
- 25% Not applicable
- 14% Not sure
- 1% Prefer not to say

If yes: Does your partner use this benefit? (n= 605)

- 41% No
- 36% Not applicable
- 22% Yes

Do you smoke cigarettes/ cigars/ pipes?

- 85% No
- 15% Yes

Do you consider yourself to be in recovery from alcohol/ drug use?

- 93% No
- 7% Yes
## Demographic Information

### Gender
- 50% Male
- 44% Female
- 5% Transgender/Transsexual
- 2% Self-identify

*If transgender/transsexual Are you... (n=96)*
- 36% Female to Male
- 58% Male to Female
- 6% Self Identify

### Age
- 26% 35-44
- 23% 45-54
- 20% 25-34
- 15% 55-64
- 11% 18-24
- 5% 65 or older

### Race/Ethnicity
- 81% White/Caucasian
- 8% African American / Black
- 6% More than one race
- 2% Latino / Hispanic
- 1% Asian / Pacific Islander
- 1% Something else

### Region
- 73% Metro Atlanta
- 13% North Georgia
- 7% Middle Georgia
- 7% South Georgia

### In total, how long have you lived in Georgia?
- 49% More than 20 years
- 25% 10 to 20 years
- 13% 5 to 9 years
- 10% 1 to 4 years
- 3% Less than 1 year

### How would you describe your housing situation?
- 58% Own house or condo
- 29% Rent without government assistance
- 10% Live in family member’s home
- 2% Dorm
- 1% Rent with government assistance
Do you live...

38% with partner/spouse and others
28% Alone
13% With partner/spouse and others
12% With friends or roommate
10% With family members

What is the highest level of education you have completed?

39% College graduate
24% Master’s degree
17% Some college
12% Doctoral level
  6% High school diploma, GED, or less
  3% Trade school or vocational program

Have you ever served in the armed forces?

90% No
10% Yes

If yes: Were you ever dismissed/discharged due to your sexual orientation or gender identity? (n=202)

88% No
12% Yes

How would you describe your employment status?

61% Full-time
12% Part-time
8% Retired
7% Student
7% Unemployed
3% On disability

What was your total personal income before income taxes for 2010? (n=2,301)

26% Under $20,000
22% $20,000- $39,999
19% $40,000- $59,999
14% $60,000- $79,999
12% $100,000 or more
  6% $80,000- $99,999
What was your total household income before taxes for 2010? (n=2,301)

29% $100,000 or more
16% $40,000- $59,999
15% $20,000- $39,999

14% $60,000- $79,999
13% $80,000- $99,999
13% Under $20,000

How many people did that household income support?

43% Two
36% One
12% Three
5% Four
4% Five or more

The Phillip Rush Center is a collaborative project of Georgia Equality (Equality Foundation of Georgia) and The Health Initiative. For more information on the Phillip Rush Center visit: [www.RushCenterATL.org](http://www.RushCenterATL.org)

For more information on this survey, please contact Georgia Equality at [geinfo@georgiaequality.org](mailto:geinfo@georgiaequality.org) or the Health Initiative at [info@thehealthinitiative.org](mailto:info@thehealthinitiative.org)
The Phillip Rush Center is named for noted community advocate and philanthropist Phillip Rush in honor of his long-standing commitment to bring diverse people and organizations together in an effort to foster partnerships and understanding. With initial funding from the Lloyd Russell Foundation, the Atlanta Gay and Lesbian Fund and a host of individual donors, the Phillip Rush Center houses office space, meeting and training rooms to be used by organizations whose mission or activities advance LGBT rights and understanding.

The vision of the Rush Center was developed in 2008 with the decision of the Health Initiative and Georgia Equality to establish a shared office space by expanding the office suite that has housed the Health Initiative’s offices at 1530 DeKalb Avenue.

The Phillip Rush Center is a collaborative project of Georgia Equality (Equality Foundation of Georgia) and The Health Initiative. For more information on the Phillip Rush Center visit: www.RushCenterATL.org

For more information on this survey, please contact Georgia Equality at geinfo@georgiaequality.org or the Health Initiative at info@thehealthinitiative.org

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